

CORN AND PELLAGRA.

Some Reasons Why Southern Farmers Should Raise Corn.

To the Editor:—Damaged corn and pellagra are synonymous terms. The use of the former is conducive of the latter, while the use of pure corn or cornmeal where there is proper sanitary conditions will not render one immune but less susceptible to this deadly disease. Our government has recently appointed Passed Assistant Surgeon, C. B. Lavender, of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, to go to Milan and other places in Italy for the purpose of making an investigation into the origin and prevalence of pellagra and into the measures being taken to combat the disease. This move is all well and good, but if we accept the opinions of some of the highest medical authority on the cause of the disease we need not go so far from home. Dr. R. D. Silver, Sidney, Ohio, makes two statements respecting the disease and its cause:

First, "Where corn is not eaten pellagra does not exist. Second, 'The eating of good corn or good meal will not produce pellagra.' He further says: 'There need be no fear on the part of agriculturists and dealers in this grain that there is a menace to their occupation by the growing prevalence in this country of a disease which has been known in other corn-growing sections of the world for nearly two centuries. The only wonder is it did not appear at an earlier time in our history, or that it remained so long unrecognized. In my judgment, however, both these facts are capable of explanation. It is recognized that no class of people is exempt from possible attack, but it is evident that the poorer people of the South and the Atlantic border States are victims in greater numbers than are the same classes in other parts of the country. This fact is also capable of explanation and affords strong presumptive evidence that damaged corn meal is the causative factor in the pellagrous attack.' We have today an endless array of those who claim at one time or another to have discovered the etiology of pellagra, and I feel safe in laying down this proposition, that damaged maize or corn coupled with unsanitary conditions are the causes of the dreaded malady. My own experience in buying corn for the last three or four years has led me to this conclusion. Often the corn would be blighted and in such bad condition that stock would not eat it, not even a chicken when you were trying to fatten him to enter the ministry, just before conference, would not eat it. Sometime ago I was in conversation with a gentleman from the West, or rather the State of Illinois, and I asked him why it was the corn that we received from that section was in such bad condition, and his reply was: 'That they shipped us the bad corn and kept the good for their own use.'

And now Mr. Editor in conclusion let me quote further from Dr. Silver: 'In the hope that some light may be thrown on this traffic, and incidentally on the infection under consideration, allow me to quote from a letter written by a friend who has been a dealer in serial products for many years, and who is fully informed on all phases of the foreign and domestic trade in grain. It will be apparent while there are tricks in all trades, there are also honest men in the grain business whose consciences have not been seared by the virus of ill-gotten gain so that they utterly deny personal responsibility in a brother's distress. The letter follows: 'As you know I have been connected with the grain business, in some branch or other, since the 60's. I have handled corn at all seasons of the year, and in varying quantities, but have never had trouble with corn shipments until within about the last half dozen years.

There are many farmers who make no effort to cure the crop sufficiently so that it may bear transportation. They force it on the market as early as possible, as the more moisture it contains the heavier it will weigh. What is the result? Before it can reach its destination, cool and sweet, as the shipping contract reads, it has become heated. If it becomes too bad to use, the consignee refuses it, in which case it is rushed to the nearest terminal and put through a dryer. There are times when these dryers must work day and night, for seven days in the week, to keep the constantly arriving corn from total destruction. As fast as it is dried, and cooled, it is disposed of. Where does it go? I do not know for a certainty. I formerly thought it went to the disilleries, and a portion of it may go there, but I fear much of it is sold to the mill at a discount of from ten to fifty per cent. Some of it is exported after mixing with good corn. The best is selected and made into meal, and, costing so much less, can be sold at a very attractive price to those whose means are limited. There are very many people who look more at the cost than quality and ultimately pay the penalty. The exporters also reap advantage because the poorer European, especially the Italians, know no better, and they too, pay the penalty. I know positively that corn

has reached European ports badly out of condition. I remember that, some four years ago, nearly every shipment, from November until March, arrived at destination out of condition. The following year it was not so bad, yet there was enough.

Every year during the germinating period—the month of April and May—there is plenty of it unless great care is taken. From this it would appear that our pure food inspector should investigate and find out where the poisonous stuff goes, and stop the killing of people for money. It will no doubt be very hard on some dealer occasionally to have his entire cargo condemned and destroyed, but the practice of shelling and shipping corn before it is properly cured should be broken up root and branch.

The Atlantic and Gulf coast are the greatest sufferers from pellagra, and they get their supplies of meal from the North, as the Southern States raise but little corn. Philadelphia, Baltimore, Buffalo, Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio, have very expensive driers, and large mills, and the South is an excellent customer. The temptation of unusual profits is great; no doubt advantage is taken of this opportunity, and the result is death and destruction to the poor and ignorant who are unable to help themselves. I have learned that the disilleries do no use much, if any, spoil corn. It does not make good fertilizers. At least it would not be profitable to use it for that purpose. The real profit comes through mixture with good grain. For example, a cargo of one hundred thousand bushels, costing seventy thousand dollars, mixed with ten thousand bushels at a discount of twenty cents would pay a profit of two thousand dollars over and above the legitimate margin. The millers near the terminals are not blind to this opportunity, and will, I fear, take it until restrained by the strong arm of the law. This inferior corn in large quantities is begging for an outlet, and the great territory along the Atlantic coast is hungry for the provision, and will take anything so it is

cheap. Inferior meal fills the bill. That this inference is fair, is strengthened by the fact that the last half of this decade, the time in which we have had most trouble with spoiled corn is the very period in which pellagra has made such strides as to draw the attention of the whole world.

Very respectfully,

J. B. DAWSON.

Kinston, N. C.

Money in Raising Supplies.

(Rev. F. T. Wooten in Whiteville News-Reporter.)

The people of Western Prosy township have learned, as all of us must, that bought corn and bought meat are too high at any price. No one is worthy of being called a farmer until he makes his own hay, corn, meat, milk and butter. All these can be produced much cheaper than they can be bought. The writer is ready to prove that meat can be produced right here in Columbus at a cost not exceeding ten cents per pound. In fact, the cost need not exceed seven cents. Hay can be grown for seven dollars a ton. The writer raises his oats and they never cost him over thirty cents a bushel. This covers the entire cost and the straw, which possesses some feeding value and is excellent for bedding, comes in as a free gift. To raise our home supplies requires the exercise of brain power as well as physical. Horses, cows and hogs must be fed on something besides corn. Sweet potatoes, cow peas, rye, oats and rape must be grown. These are crops that can be grown at a small cost, yet their feeding value is superior. If our people would prosper and become independent, they must grow all these crops. The secret in growing good oats lies in the preparation of the soil and good seed. In fact the good farmer lays great stress on the preparation of land in growing all crops.

Respect the faculty that forms thy judgments.—Marcus Aurelius.

A Plan for a Farm Garden Suggested By the Government.

In the fall it is a very good plan to cover the garden with stable-manure and have it spaded in lightly. In the spring cover the garden with a good supply of well-decayed manure and have it spaded in, early in the season. As one crop of vegetables of a certain kind is disposed of, plant something in a different order.

Tobacco Crop Cut Short.

(Wilson Times.)

The tobacco crop in Wilson county will be cut short. This is due to the high price of cotton and the desire of the people to abandon the old methods of farming that means all for the trust and nothing for the home.

Mr. Woodard Also Raising Mules.

(Wilson Times.)

Mr. Lee P. Woodard, a prominent farmer of this county is also raising mules. He is also a breeder of high grade cattle. Mr. Woodard thinks the country is looking up and the people are taking more interest in the right sort of farming.

The Way to Success.

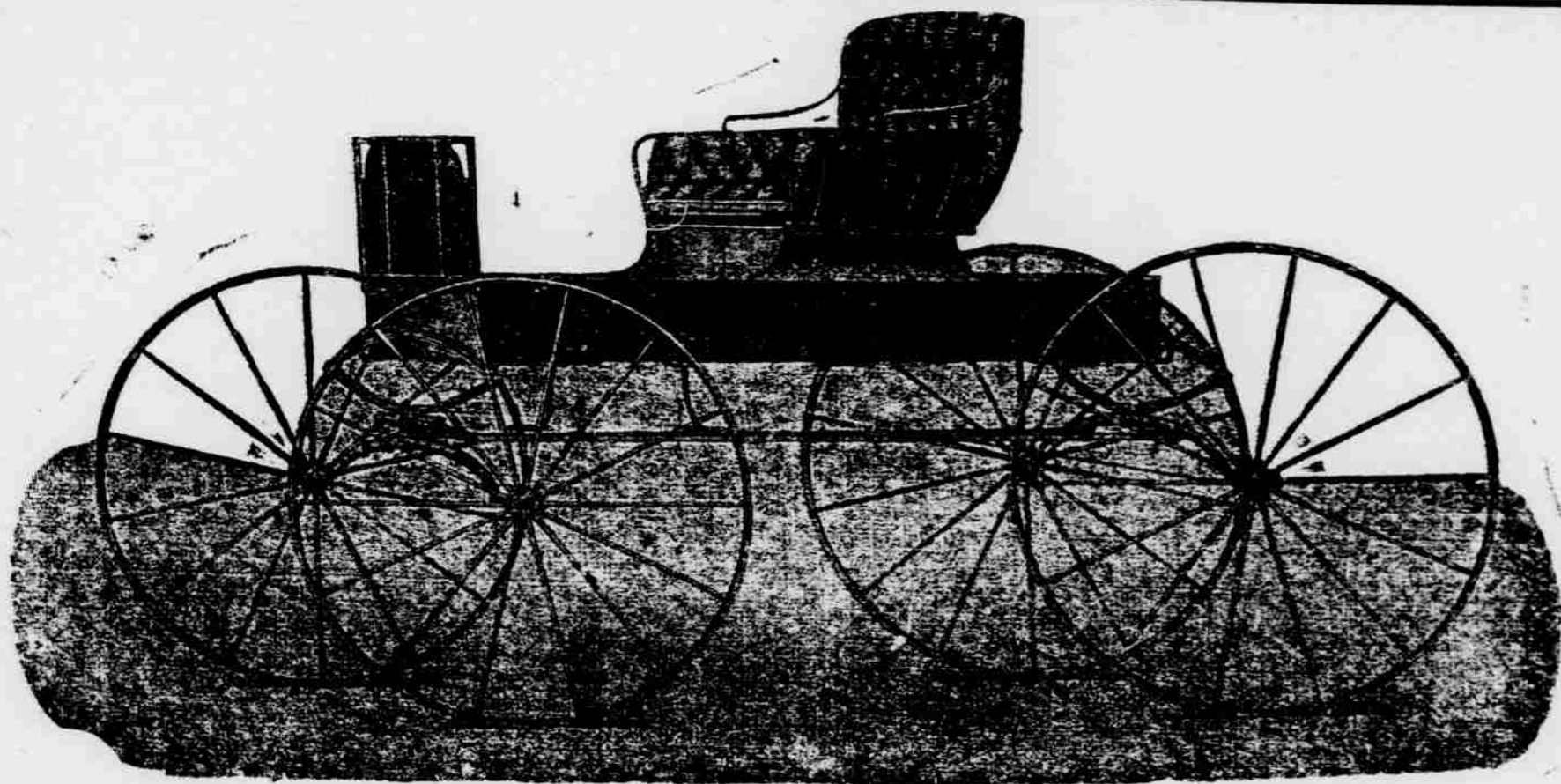
(Chatham Record.)

Mr. T. M. Bland, who is one of the best farmers of this county, sold 300 bushels of corn to local merchants last Thursday. This was only a small part of his crop of corn which he raised on his farm near here.

In some parts of the country Winter lingereth in the lap of Spring like an engaged girl expecting a diamond ring.—Montgomery Advertiser.

"Do you believe in fate?" he asked as he snuggled closer.

"Well," answered the girl, "I believe that what's going to happen will happen."—Cornell Widow.



MR. CONSUMER:

Did you ever stop and do a little thinking for yourself on the buggy question, or did you take the dealer's word for it and purchase what he recommended? If you were going to buy a suit of clothes you would use your own judgment, so why not do the same when you are buying a buggy? We make the best and lightest running buggy on earth for the money, and we can prove it to your entire satisfaction. The next time you are in town call on your buggy dealer and ask him to show you a Flanagan Buggy, and look it over and see if we are not right in what we say. If there is no dealer in your town, write to us and we will have one there or tell you where you can buy one of our buggies. We have a dealer in almost every town—but not in all—but we want one in every town; so a line from you will do the work.

MR. DEALER:

Did you ever stop and consider where you could get the best buggy for the least money? If not why not?

We claim to make the best buggy on earth at the price, and if you will give us a chance to prove it to you we will make good. We have never lost an old customer, and are making new ones all the time. If you are not one of these we want you to be, for we can save you some money as well as put you next to a line of buggies that will sell.

Is it not worth your while to stop and consider this, for we both lose money when you don't buy from us.

A postal will do the work. DO IT NOW.

THE JOHN FLANAGAN BUGGY CO.

GREENVILLE, N. C.